



## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor  
Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 29, 2004

FROM: *Marc A. Buoniconti*  
Marc A. Buoniconti, Chairperson  
Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

SUBJECT: People's Transportation  
Plan 90-Day Report

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Pursuant to Ordinance 02-117, it is my pleasure to provide you with the "90-Day Report" on the implementation of the People's Transportation Plan, as prepared by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust. This report encompasses the period from April 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004, and includes public works and transit activities, and actions taken by the CITT during this reporting period.

The CITT is pleased with the improvements in process and procedure that have facilitated the expeditious approval of contracts and amendments this past period, and have in turn facilitated the prompt implementation of the PTP. We look forward to continuing to work with the Board of County Commissioners, County administration and staff in this very important endeavor.

cc: Members, CITT  
George M. Burgess, County Manager  
Robert Ginsburg, County Attorney  
Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Carlos F. Bonzon, Ph.D., P.E., Surface Transportation Manager  
Irma San Roman, Interim Executive Director, OCITT

Attachment



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# **90-Day Report**

*The People's Transportation Plan*

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3rd Quarter: FY 03-04

## **90-Day Report**

*The People's Transportation Plan*

3rd Quarter: FY 03-04

### **Summary**

This report provides a recap of activities related to the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) for the 90-day period beginning April 1, 2004, through June 30, 2004. Listings of previous and life-to-date accomplishments are available at [trafficrelief.com](http://trafficrelief.com). The implementation of the PTP continues with accelerated planning for projects and improvements included in the PTP. While no new bus line-up was put in service during this reporting period, previously implemented improvements continue to provide enhanced services.

In addition to the PTP projects that were materialized during this quarter, it is noteworthy to mention three significant endeavors. On June 8, 2004, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) passed a resolution approving the advertising for Financial Consultant services for the CITT. The Financial Consultant will further validate all of the good actions of the BCC and the CITT by providing an "independent" analysis and will give all stakeholders an added guarantee that constituent's best interests are being followed. On June 7, 2004, a joint meeting, the first of a series of meetings, was held between Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D., CITT Chair Marc A. Buoniconti, and County Manager George M. Burgess to address issues of mutual interest. Lastly, on May 24, 2004, Irma San Roman was appointed as CITT Interim Executive Director. A Selection Committee for a permanent Executive Director has been named and is expected to conduct interviews in the coming quarter.

A collaborative effort between Miami-Dade Transit (MDT), Public Works (PWD) and the Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT) resulted in the development of a status report on all PTP projects. This document provides a status of PTP elements and includes other related projects, such as those overseen by FDOT, MDX, SFRTA and the MPO, that contribute to the mobility enhancements that are provided by the PTP. A major update of the report will occur annually. However, updates on the Plan will be available on-line for review by the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

## **New Initiatives**

The following major initiatives occurred during the last quarter:

**Municipal Workshop:** Hosted Municipal Workshop on May 21, 2004. Nineteen (19) of the thirty-two (32) eligible municipalities attended the event. The panel was comprised of staff from the County Attorney's Office, Office of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), PWD, MDT, and OCITT. Attendees were provided information on PTP ADA issues, partnerships with county departments, outreach opportunities, reporting requirements and information on governing legislation.

## **Contract Reviews**

The following contracts were presented to the CITT for its consideration during the quarter:

- Resolution by the CITT approving the action by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of awarding a contract to Raydan Electric, Inc. for the Public Works Department's (PWD) project entitled PTP School Flashing Signals; Project No. 20030014 (\$1 million).
- Resolution by the CITT approving the action of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners of awarding a contract to Xcel Engineering, Corp., for the Public Works Department (PWD), project entitled PTP project sidewalk contract; Project No. 20030006 (\$1 million).
- Resolution by the CITT approving the action by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners of awarding a contract to Xcel Engineering Corp., for the Public Works Department (PWD), project entitled the PTP ADA sidewalk contract; Project No. 20030012 (\$1 million).
- Resolution by the CITT approving the action of the Board of County Commissioners in awarding a contract to H&R Paving, Inc., for the Public Works Department's PTP resurfacing; Project No. 20030001 (\$1 million).
- Resolution by the CITT approving the Board of County Commissioners action authorizing the execution of two non-exclusive professional agreements between Miami-Dade County and Cherokee Enterprises, Inc., and Peer Consultants, P.C., to provide groundwater, surface water, and soil contamination cleanup services; Project No. E03-Derm (\$500,000).
- Resolution by the CITT approving the action of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) authorizing Miami-Dade to secure an independent, Certified Member Appraisal Institute (MAI) or an accredited senior appraiser, American Society of Appraisers (ASA) to perform property appraisals on an as-needed basis, in accordance with established county appraiser selection procedures; (\$75,000).

Note: A listing of all Resolutions to date are posted on [trafficrelief.com](http://trafficrelief.com)

## **PTP Amendments**

The following PTP amendments were considered by the CITT during the quarter:

- Resolution by the CITT recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) amend the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) to implement a demonstration program that expands Miami-Dade Transit's Golden Passport Program for a period of three years to include honorably discharged veterans who are Miami-Dade County residents and whose annual household income does not exceed the standard threshold applied to determine eligibility for the low-income, senior citizen's additional homestead exemption.

## **Resolutions**

The CITT considered the following resolutions during the quarter:

- Resolution disapproving awards of two Professional Services Agreements (PSA) by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for project no. E03-Derm-01 which delegate to the County Manager authority to increase the \$500,000 ceiling amount of each PSA under certain conditions; and recommending the BCC award PSA's for project no E03-Derm-01 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 each, as permitted under existing county code.
- Resolution by the CITT supporting Miami-Dade County's position in directing the County's selected consultant to update and revalidate the previous finds, and reaffirm the recommended transportation solution, for the SR-836 corridor, including the consideration of all previously examined options, as well as other options that may be viable but not part of the original study, including but not limited to a commuter rail extension along the CSX corridor, bus rapid transit, and any other options that the federal transportation administration may determine should be considered.
- Resolution by the CITT approving a policy that establishes timelines and deadlines for the review, approval or rejection of proposed People's Transportation Plan (PTP) amendments or Charter County Transit System Sales Surtax (Surtax) funded contracts.
- Resolution by the CITT urging the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to withdraw the proposed amendment to section 2-1421 and 29-124 of the County Ordinance 02-116, relating to the process for amendments to the PTP and setting forth deadlines for the CITT action.
- Resolution by the CITT requesting the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conduct a study through the unified planning work program (UPWP) on the use of "School Flashing Lights" for safety at school crossing.

## Transit

The following activities were accomplished during the last quarter:

It is important to note that May and June ridership numbers are not yet available. Ridership numbers by mode become available at the end of each month.

### **Rapid Transit Corridors:**

Program Management Consultant: Proposals received from consultants on June 4, 2004. The first tier meeting of the consultant selection process is scheduled for July 21, 2004. The public hearings are tentatively scheduled for August 20, 2004, and the Notice-to-Proceed to the consultant is currently projected for March 2005.

East-West Planning Consultant: The County Manager concurred with the selection committee's selection of HNTB as the East-West consultant and has also named a negotiation committee to handle the negotiations that commenced on June 17, 2004.

New Hires: There were 197 New Hires for this reporting period (Please note: This figure is as of June 21, 2004, and does not include a Bus Operator class that is scheduled to begin at the end of the month and will have between 30 and 40 newly hired trainees).

Ridership: The following are April's totals.

- Rail: 1,165,025 Boardings. (Note: Overnight service between 1 and 5 a.m. was discontinued because of low ridership. This service was replaced by the Midnight Owl (Bus Route 500).
- Mover: 592,727 Boardings. (Note: Overnight Service was discontinued in conjunction with Metrorail. There were no new improvements during this quarter.
- Bus: 5,542,511 Boardings. Two new routes were added to the system, the Midnight Owl and Route 99. Service and schedule improvements were made to 23 existing Metrobus routes. More than 400,000 annual miles of service were added during this reporting period.

Other important transit notes:

Implemented the Patriot Passport Program, a 3-year pilot program which enables Veterans with Household incomes under \$22,000 to utilize bus and rail service for free. The Board of County Commissioners at its June 8, 2004, meeting approved Senator Javier D. Souto's and Commissioner Diaz' sponsored Patriot Passport Program. This program allows honorably discharged veterans to ride Metrobus and Metrorail free of charge. The effective date was June 18; veterans of all ages who earn less than \$22,000 per year and are residents of Miami-Dade County, can apply for the Patriot Passport,

## **Transit (Continued)**

- MDT Launches three Satellite Service Centers at Team Metro Offices  
Effective Monday, June 21, 2004, three additional Satellite Centers were opened to provide full transit services, which includes processing Special Transportation Services, Golden Passport and Patriot Passport applications, trip planning, etc. Each location is staffed by two MDT members.

They are located as follows:

Team Metro South at Southland Mall  
Team Metro Northeast at Skylake Mall  
Team Metro's University Office, across from FIU

Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship Program:

- This program generates a lot of interest because it provides fundamental training and a well paying job to people who have little or no experience working in automotives. MDT implemented this initiative under the sponsorship of Commissioner Jimmy Morales with the approval of the BCC, in conjunction with the School Board, South Florida Workforce and Miami-Dade Employee Relations Department (ERD) to enhance employment opportunities in the community.
- The first forty (40) enrollees graduated May 24, 2004 and started working the same day. Their pay range is \$16.86 – 27.08 per hour. Classes are held at Miami Lakes and Robert Morgan Technical Education Centers. This program has received national attention and may be used as a model for other transit properties.

Joint Development Projects:

- On May 12, MDT held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Overtown Metrorail Station for the Overtown Transit Village, a 17-story, 321,000 sq. ft. (rental space) county office building with parking and retail. MDT expects this project to be completed at the end of 2005. MDT will occupy seven of the top floors for its administrative offices (approx. 100,000 sq. ft.) and provide needed office space due to the rapid expansion of the PTP.
- At the Santa Clara and Allapattah Metrorail Stations, ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies were held on Friday, May 21, 2004, for two exciting and affordable housing projects adjacent to the stations. Tenants have already moved in to what has proven to be very popular and much needed affordable housing in this community. MDT is also looking forward to construction starting shortly on 200 additional units on the Santa Clara site. Dadeland North Phase III "Towers of Dadeland", which are market rate residential apartments, is currently under construction. These projects, and our entire joint development program, encourage ridership, spur economic development in the communities, and provide funds to Transit.

## **Transit (Continued)**

### Metrorail/Metromover Rehabilitation:

- The Request to Advertise (RTA) package for the rehabilitation of the Metrorail vehicles is currently being finalized. Documents to support a sole-source negotiation for the purchase of twelve (12) Mover cars to replace the original 12 Phase 1 Mover vehicles that have reached their 20-year useful life are also being finalized. The final specifications for the Mover vehicle purchase and the rail vehicle rehabilitation are expected to be completed during the month of June 2004.

### New Operations and Maintenance Facility:

- MDT opened its new Bus Operations and Maintenance facility on Friday, April 23, 2004, located at 8141 NW 80th Street. This facility will enable MDT to address its rapidly growing fleet due to service improvements mandated by the PTP and provide more efficient and reliable service.
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Transit Conference  
MDT hosted the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Transit Conference on June 6-9, 2004, at the Radisson Hotel. Nearly 1,000 conferees participated.
- Golden Passport: To date, there are 101,899 active patron accounts. During this quarter, 5,548 Golden Passports were issued. In November 2002, there were 51,082 active accounts. From November 2002 to May 2004, 50,817 additional passports were issued. This represents a program growth of approximately 99.5 percent.
- Marketing: The latest PTP improvements were outlined in an eight (8) page newsletter in English, Spanish, and Creole. The newsletter included a map of planned rapid transit expansion projects, all the new and improved bus routes, and the PTP's municipal transportation component.
- Implemented PTP project construction signs, which features Pete, "Your Half-Penny at Work." Character is also featured in other PTP-related publications.

## **Public Works**

The following activities relating to the PTP's Major Highway and Road Improvements and Neighborhood Improvements (public works) occurred during this quarter:

- PWD continued the resurfacing projects in Districts 1 and 7. In District 1, the limits of the resurfacing are from NW 157 St. to NW 167 St. and from NW 47 Ave. to NW 57 Ave.



## **Public Works (Continued)**

- In District 7, the limits of resurfacing are from SW 56 St to SW 72 St and from SW 77 Av to SW 87 Av. Two contract change orders were used to initiate these projects, and they are 85% completed to date.
- PWD hired twelve (12) more PTP-related employees during this quarter. Eight (8) of these will be used to accelerate the street name sign replacement program.
- Out of the fifteen (15) originally advertised open construction contracts for PTP Neighborhood projects, bids have been received on twelve (12). The three that did not receive proper bids will be re-advertised. Four (4) of the twelve (12) have been awarded and approved by the CITT and BCC during this quarter. These contracts will address resurfacing, ADA accessibility to bus stops, and new school flashing signals countywide. The remaining eight (8) have begun the approval process of the contract awards through the CITT and the BCC. These contracts will address resurfacing, striping, signalization, drainage, and school flashing signals countywide.
- Two (2) additional construction contracts were advertised to complete the countywide street light retrofit program.
- Design for the NW 82nd Avenue Project in the 2-year plan was completed. PWD also began the construction procurement process during this quarter.
- The \$5.5 million construction contract in the City of Hialeah for the reconstruction of NW 62nd Avenue broke ground on May 3, 2004. Under a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA), the City is working with the County to inspect the progress of the project. Work has already begun on the clearing and grubbing, drainage, and subgrade.
- Consultants have been selected for six (6) design projects in the PWD 2-year work plan. Negotiations have also been completed on the majority of these and the award recommendations are being prepared for the CITT and BCC approval. These projects are:
  - NE 2nd Ave from NE 62nd Street to West Little River Canal – Street and Traffic Operational Improvements
  - SW 62nd Ave from SW 24 St to SW 7th St – Street Improvements
  - SW 62nd Ave from SW 70 St to SW 64 St – 5 to 2 lanes
  - SW 160 St from SW 147 Ave to SW 137 Ave – New 4 lane road
  - NW 138 St Bridge over the Miami River Canal – 2 to 5 lanes
  - New Access to Country Walk to SW 136 Street as an extension of SW 143 Terrace.
- Consultants were selected for two studies, which will be monitored by the MPO and PWD. The consultants will study reversible flow lanes and intersection grade separations.
- The JPA with the City of Miami was finalized for the reconstruction of Grand Avenue from SW 37 Avenue to Matilda Street. The City of Miami will administer the construction.

## **Municipal**

The following PTP's municipal component activities occurred during the last quarter:

- The City of Hialeah, as a result of an Enhancement Study, modified its transit system. The old system operated nine (9) buses on three (3) circular routes, running in one direction and one (1) linear route, running bi-directional. The new system operates eight (8) buses on two (2) linear routes, running bi-directional. Change has resulted in an increase of 300 boardings per day.
- The City of Hialeah Gardens finalized an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hialeah to provide transit service within their municipality. The 'Marlin' route will cost the City of Hialeah Gardens approximately \$206,000 annually.
- The City of Hialeah Gardens is utilizing PTP funds to leverage a \$2 million loan to aggressively tackle road improvements throughout the city. Approval is expected from the City Council at their next meeting on June 30, 2004.
- The State of Florida Department of Transportation Improvement Program granted the Village of Key Biscayne \$1 million towards the construction of improvements on Crandon Boulevard. The Village Council authorized staff to negotiate a contract with the 3CTS Engineering Company for plans to construct the improvements that will be funded by both the surtax funds and the State of Florida grant.
- The State of Florida's Legislature approved and the Governor signed an amendment to the legislation regarding the historic designation of Crandon Boulevard to permit the improvements that will be made with surtax funds and the above mentioned grant.
- Thirty-one (31) visits were made to the thirty-two (32) eligible municipalities to discuss project eligibility and status.
- The Village of Key Biscayne, South Miami, and Opa-Locka made presentations before the CITT's Projects Review Committee.
- A total of \$8,287,630 in Surtax funds under the Municipal Share was transferred during the quarter to all municipalities in compliance with the Interlocal Agreement (Dollar amount may increase by June 30, 2004).
- Utilizing an MPO grant and PTP funds, the Town of Medley completed a study focusing on traffic problems on N.W. South River Drive and N.W. 107th Avenue southeasterly to the Palmetto Expressway.
- The City of Miami Beach is continuing to utilize PTP funds to provide on-going transit service with their Electrowave Shuttle Service. The service provides transport for people in the South Beach area.

## **Municipal (Continued)**

- The Town of Medley has completed their transportation plan and is currently working with Miami-Dade Transit to provide a shuttle service for their citizens.
- On Monday, June 28, 2004, Bay Harbor officials inaugurated a 20-seat Ford that will replace an older model which had been operated under contract with a limousine company. Among the upgrades: a longer route, weekday service, and air-conditioning. The \$65,000 bus was purchased by the village with money from the county's half-cent transportation tax. The new Bal Harbour Express bus will take an hour-long circuit with added stops in Bay Harbor Islands, Haulover Beach, Sunny Isles Beach and Aventura. It will run Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., when the last hour-long circuit begins.

## **CITT Board**

The CITT continues to be very busy fine tuning and implementing its processes and procedures to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibility to "monitor, oversee, review, audit and investigate" the implementation of the PTP. The full CITT Board met three (3) times during the quarter (April 28, 2004, May 26, 2004, and June 30, 2004). A quorum was present at all full CITT Board meetings.

- On May 26, 2004, John F. Cosgrove resigned as Chairperson of the CITT. According to the CITT By-Laws, the Vice-Chair, Marc A. Buoniconti assumed the duties of the CITT Chairperson. One vacancy remained at the end of the quarter.
- New CITT Member Maureen O'Donnell was sworn in on May 26, 2004, representing County Commission District 11.
- The CITT's Committees met on a regular basis during the quarter and, as per their respective subject areas, reviewed items to be forwarded to the full CITT for its consideration. A total of 11 Committee meetings were held during the quarter.
- A new CITT Member Orientation Workshop was hosted on May 14, 2004. Three members were in attendance. Staff from the County Attorney's Office provided information on the Sunshine Law and the Conflict of Interest Ordinance. Staffs from MDT and Public Works were on hand to provide project status and other relevant information.
- CITT members were scheduled on one radio station and appeared on MDTV to encourage the citizenry to submit their application for CITT Board membership.

Major activities included:

- The CITT passed 11 resolutions that included the consideration of 5 contracts and the recommendation of one (1) PTP amendment (as previously delineated).

## **Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT)**

The Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust's (OCITT) was created in was created in October 2003 to provide staff and support to the CITT. The FY 03-04 Budget Amendment process provided the approved budget for the Department.

- Met with MDT's Public Involvement staff to discuss joint participation in outreach activities. Agreed to work cooperatively on PTP update events.
- Provided staff support to all CITT and CITT Committee meetings, including public notice requirements, meeting minutes, agenda development, item research and recommendation.
- Continued fine tuning the concurrent review process to facilitate the submission and review of items for the consideration of the CITT.
- All municipal transportation plans were reviewed for compliance under state and local governing laws. Each municipality was advised in writing of any issues found within their transportation plan.
- An agreement was achieved between OCITT and ESTD to secure the part-time services of web designer to assist with the development of the municipal reporting segment on trafficrelief.com, re-design trafficrelief.com and create OCITT's website on the county portal.
- Began preliminary meetings with ESTD, MDT, and the MPO to launch the Transportation Website.
- Updated the website on a monthly basis, to include press releases, meeting notices, etc. Managed the trafficrelief.com website's email inquiries and provided responses accordingly. This Quarter the OCITT received 6 emails consisting of suggestions and requests for information.
- Prepared financial reports requested by the Budget and Finance committee.
- Proactively sought to increase public participation at CITT/PTP meetings through press releases and ongoing communications with more than 400 community based organizations.
- Appointed a Departmental Preparedness Liaison and worked with the Office of Emergency Management to finalize the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and participated in training.
- Issued RFP 427A for Financial Consultant Services for the CITT. Next Quarter the selection committee is scheduled to complete their evaluation work.
- A draft Business Plan was submitted for the Executive Director's review and comment. Based on staff recommendation, additional revisions are being made to the business plan.

## **Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (OCITT)**

- Participated in numerous community meetings and made presentations at the request of the Chamber South, CTAC, the Brickell Area Association, Miami-Dade League of Cities, and the Downtown Bay Forum. Additionally, we made two (2) presentations at Team Metro's Citizen Academy.
- Hilda M. Fernandez, the OCITT Executive Director was promoted to Communications Director. Irma San Roman has been appointed as Interim Executive Director during the recruitment process.
- Obtained legislative updates on the state and federal funding status of rail projects. A presentation was made to the full CITT on this year's legislative activities.
- Completed cash transfers of \$70,528,363.37 to MDT for FY 03 and 04 CITT approved expenditures. Further transfers are pending direction, approval, clarification and corrections of MDT FY 03 and 04 workplans.

## **Nominating Committee**

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 02-117, vacancies on the CITT must be filled through a Nominating Committee Process. The CITT Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of selecting and submitting slates of four names to the Office of the County Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade League of Cities for the nomination of members to the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT).

On May 26, 2004, John F. Cosgrove resigned as Chairperson of the CITT. According to the CITT By-Laws, Vice-Chairperson Marc A. Buoniconti automatically assumed the duties of the CITT Chair. To fill the created vacancy in Commission District 8 and ensure a pool of sufficient potential applicants at all times, the OCITT has been working to advertise through radio and newspaper. Applications were also mailed to more than 400 community based organizations, as well as to the approximately 200 previous applicants.

## **Upcoming Initiatives, activities, and Improvements in next quarter**

It is expected that the following activities will occur during the next quarter:

- Convene the CITT Nominating Committee to select a slate of four names for the selection of a CITT Member for Commission District 8.
- Finalize the OCITT Business Plan and post on OCITT website.
- OCITT, PWD and MDT will be creating a task force to jointly coordinate and develop the PTP Marketing campaign.

### **Upcoming Initiatives, activities, and Improvements in next quarter (Cont.)**

- East-West Corridor: Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to the consultant is expected to be issued in August 2004.
- Bus Maintenance Apprentice Program: Twenty (20) students are expected to graduate at the end of July 2004.
- CITT is expected to consider seven (7) PWD contracts and at least two (2) MDT contracts.
- Construction of Grand Avenue Road Project is expected to begin.
- Next Quarter the selection committee is scheduled to complete their evaluation work of RFP 427A for Financial Consultant Services for the CITT.
- A meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2004, with selected members of the Board of County Commissioners and the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT), to discuss items of mutual interest.
- A selection Committee for the OCITT Executive Director has been chosen and is scheduled to conduct interviews on July 15, 2004.